

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request consideration of the subject application as amended herein. This Amendment is submitted in response to an Office Action mailed on April 19, 2004. Claims 1-27 are rejected. Claims 1, 11, 13, 17, 20 and 21 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-21 and 22-27 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Schell, et al., (U.S. Patent No. 6,628,279, hereinafter "Schell").

Schell discloses a tool for three-dimensional modeling. The tool allows a user to define an object, and create a new component from the object. The new component is then added to a list of loaded components. Subsequently, the user can select a component from the list and insert an instance of the selected component into the drawing (Schell, col. 16, line 35 to col. 17, line 32).

Contrary to the presently claimed invention, in Schell, each component in the list has predefined behavioral properties (specified by the user when the component is created) that stay the same for every instance of a selected component (Schell, col. 17, lines 56-63). Hence, the user in Schell must specify behavioral parameters of a component when the component is created, and not after the component is selected from the list of loaded components. In the presently claimed invention, in contrast, the user specifies behavioral parameters upon selecting a design feature from the list of design features available for modeling. As a result, the present invention allows the user to model instances of a design feature differently by varying behavioral parameters applicable to the design feature (e.g., see Figures 3 and 4 of the present application).

Accordingly, Schell does not teach or suggest at least receiving a user selection of a current design feature for modeling from a list of design features available for modeling, and then, upon receiving the user selection, presenting a set of behavioral parameters applicable to the current design feature to the user and receiving user input identifying behavioral parameters selected from the set.

On page 2 of the Office Action mailed on April 19, 2004, the Examiner asserts that Schell discloses creating a component that involves receiving a user selection of an object, presenting a set of behavioral parameters for the object, and receiving user input identifying behavioral parameters selected from the set. However, the component creation process in Schell requires a user to select an actual object displayed on the screen for which a component needs to be created (Figs. 10A-10C, col. 16, lines 35-67). In the presently claimed invention, in contrast, the user is provided with a list of design features available for modeling to allow the user to select a design feature for modeling from the list. For example, as shown in the Figures 3 and 4 of the present application, the user is presented with the list of design feature names to allow the user to select the name of the design feature that the user wants to model.

Furthermore, in Schell, once behavioral properties are specified for an object, a corresponding component is created and added to the list of loaded components. Subsequently, the user can select this component to insert an instance of the component into the drawing. Hence, in Schell, a component instance is created in response to a user selection of the component from the list, and not in response to user input identifying behavioral parameters selected by the user for the current design feature, as claimed in the present invention.

Accordingly, Schell does not teach or suggest the features of the present invention that are included in the following language of claim 1:

... presenting to a user a list of design features available for modeling;
receiving a user selection of a current design feature for modeling from the list of available design features;
upon receiving the user selection of the current design feature, identifying a plurality of behavioral parameters applicable to the current design feature selected by the user, and presenting the plurality of behavioral parameters to the user;
receiving user input identifying one or more behavioral parameters selected from the plurality of behavioral parameters by the user; and
in response to the user input, modeling the current design feature by calculating a geometry of the current design feature based on the one or more behavioral parameters selected by the user and context defined by other design features of an object having the current design feature.

Similar language is also included in independent claims 11, 20 and 21. Thus, independent claims 1, 11, 20 and 21, and their corresponding dependent claims, are not anticipated by Shell.

Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that Applicants' invention as claimed in independent claims 1, 11, 20 and 21, and their corresponding dependent claims 2-10, 12-19, 22-24 and 25-27, is not anticipated by the above reference, and respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application and allowance of the pending claims.

If the Examiner determines that prompt allowance of these claims could be facilitated by a telephone conference, the Examiner is invited to contact Marina Portnova at (408) 720-8300.

Deposit Account Authorization

Authorization is hereby given to charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any charges that may be due. Furthermore, if an extension is required, then Applicant hereby requests such extension.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: July 30, 2004

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